

REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated April 15, 2009, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 1-15 were previously pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12 and 14 have been amended; and claims 2, 3 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3-5 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claim 3 (which has now been canceled). Independent claims 12 and 14 have also been amended to include similar features.

The dependencies of some of the remaining claims have been changed to reflect the cancellation of claims 2 and 3. For example, claims 4 and 6-8 have been amended to now depend from independent claim 1 (i.e., which includes all the features of claim 3). Claim 5 already depends from claim 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 3-5 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 6-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0078184) in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,393).

Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled thereby rendering the above rejection to those claims moot. Additionally, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12 and 14 in order to help further distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. Independent claims 1, 12 and 14 have been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 3. For example, independent claim 1 (as amended) recites the following features:

“[a] camera terminal constituting an imaging zone adjusting apparatus that adjusts an imaging zone using multiple camera terminals, comprising:

a camera configured to image a hypothetical imaging zone that is a hypothetical imaging zone including a sum of imaging zones obtained by changing a rotation angle of said camera or a position of said camera within a specific zone in a specific period of time;

an adjusting unit configured to adjust the position of the hypothetical imaging zone by controlling said camera; and

a communication unit configured to send and receive hypothetical imaging zone information indicating the hypothetical imaging zone,

wherein said adjusting unit is configured to adjust the position of the hypothetical imaging zone to which the camera terminal belongs based on the hypothetical imaging zone to which the camera terminal belongs provided with said adjusting unit and hypothetical imaging zones of the other camera terminals indicated by the hypothetical imaging zone information received by said communication unit so that a combined zone of the hypothetical imaging zones of said multiple camera terminals completely covers a specific imaging target zone, and

said adjusting unit is configured to adjust the position of the hypothetical imaging zone to which the camera terminal belongs so that the overlapping zone quantity that is the quantity of a zone where the hypothetical imaging zone to which the camera terminal belongs and a hypothetical imaging zone adjacent to said hypothetical imaging zone overlap converges on a target quantity that is a fixed quantity larger than 0.” (Emphasis added).

The features emphasized above in independent claim 1 are similarly recited in independent claims 12 and 14 (as amended). As noted above, independent claims 1, 12 and 14 have been amended to include the features of dependent 3. Therefore, the features emphasized above are fully supported by the Applicants’ disclosure.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 3-5 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 was indicated as including allowable subject matter and claim 3 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, independent claims 12 and 14 have been amended to included similar features.

Based on the above discussion, independent claims 1, 12 and 14 should be distinguished over the cited prior art without any further comment being necessary (i.e., due the allowable subject matter now incorporated into the claims). Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12 and 14 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Sakai. Likewise, claims 6-11, and 15 are not

anticipated or rendered obvious by Sakai at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 14.

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action, and pass the present application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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